

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 13
By Davis

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Lucius Reese of Cocke County.

WHEREAS, it was with a deep sense of loss that the Tennessee General Assembly and the citizens of Cocke County learned of the death of Lucius Reese, the county's oldest citizen and last surviving World War I veteran; and

WHEREAS, he was honored with a special commemorative medal which was struck by the United States Department of Veteran's Affairs for all surviving veterans of World War I, which reads "A Grateful Nation Remembers: 1918-1993. They Came on the Wings of Eagles."; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Reese, the son of the late Robert H. and Sarah Ketner Reese, was born January 25, 1891, in Cocke County; and

WHEREAS, he was raised on a farm and fondly remembered plowing the fields with mules and oxen. His father sold timber and operated a popular general merchandise store which he had purchased in 1904; and

WHEREAS, Lucius attended school where the Newport Utilities Board's Charles Rhyne, Jr. Operations Center is located. That school was later consolidated with Edgemont School; and

WHEREAS, he then attended Juniper and Newport Grammar schools and Sunset Gap High School in Sevier County; and

WHEREAS, in 1910, Lucius and his family went on a twelve hour trip to Knoxville to an exposition, where former President Teddy Roosevelt landed in the first plane Reese had ever seen; and

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WHEREAS, he married Sallie Conway on July 5, 1918 and three days later enlisted in the United States Army. His unit I Company 46 Infantry, Ninth division was stationed in Montgomery, Alabama and was preparing to go overseas when the war ended; and

WHEREAS, following his stint in the military, Lucius returned home to his bride; and

WHEREAS, he farmed and in later years did some carpenter work. His farm was located in Cocke County near Reidtown. He also rented a farm in the Dutch Bottoms community and later purchased part of his father's farm located in Jefferson County; and

WHEREAS, both as a child and man, Lucius grew produce for Bush Brothers and Company and Stokely Brothers and Company; and

WHEREAS, he was a devoted member of the Methodist faith; and

WHEREAS, Lucius Reese is survived by his children: Janella Johnson of Newport, Bob Reese of Parrotsville, Martha Lewis of Newport, Betty O'Dell of Greeneville, Ohio, Dinah Valentine of Newport, Esther Keel of Plano, Texas, and Doris Dennis of Dandridge; and 16 grandchildren; and 16 great-grandchildren; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate that this legislative body pause in its deliberations to remember the exemplary life of this fine Tennessean; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE-HUNDREDTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That we pause in our deliberations to honor the memory of Mr. Lucius Reese and express our deepest condolences to his family and friends.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution, with this final resolving clause deleted, be prepared for presentation.